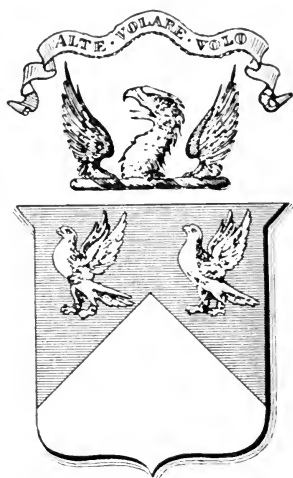


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THE

SEQUEL OF AN ATTEMPT

TO ASCERTAIN

THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTERS OF JUNIUS.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES

THE FIRST

OF GREAT

BRITAIN

BY

JOHN

WILKINS

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF

OXFORD

PRINTED

BY

JOHN

WILKINS

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF

OXFORD

THE
SEQUEL OF AN ATTEMPT

TO ASCERTAIN THE AUTHOR OF

The Letters

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SIGNATURE OF

JUNIUS,

IN WHICH

THAT HITHERTO IMPENETRABLE SECRET IS,

IT IS PRESUMED,

FULLY DISCLOSED.

BY THE

AUTHOR OF THE ATTEMPT.

Blakeney, John Brickdale

— Sub luce malignâ

Est iter. —

ÆN. vi. 270.

London

PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND
BROWN, PATERNOSTER ROW; AND
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1815.

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THE

SEQUEL OF AN ATTEMPT,

&c.

SINCE the appearance of this Attempt to ascertain the Author of Junius's Letters, the public attention has been largely called to the subject. The claims of old competitors have been reinforced by fresh arguments, and new candidates for the property of these celebrated compositions have been brought forward. Of the *former* of these classes I shall only say, that nothing has been urged, which appears to me in the least to shake the reasoning by which the publisher of the last edition has repelled their pretensions in his Introduction. Of the *latter* class, the chief characters I at present recollect, are Dr. Francis, the translator of Horace, and his son, Sir Philip; Mr. Glover, the author of *Leonidas*; and Dr. Wilmot, a Warwickshire clergyman.—The claims of Dr. Francis and

his son rest upon some supposed identities of expression, which, upon the most cursory examination, will be found to resolve themselves into nothing ; and upon the circumstance, that Sir Philip was at the time a clerk in the War-Office, and therefore capable of communicating certain information concerning that department, which Junius appears to have possessed : information, however, which he may have derived from other quarters, and which every prudential motive would have withheld a young man in the office from imparting to the public *through the medium of his own pen*. In fact, Sir P. Francis, who is still living, has solemnly disavowed the *honour* of being Junius ; and, from the terms of resentment in which he has disclaimed the *imputation*, appears to entertain as little respect for that writer, as the author of the *Attempt* professes himself to do. The pretensions of Dr. Wilmot may be dismissed in a single word. Mr. Woodfall has proved, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, that the only atom of evidence on which this supposition rests (the scrap of a leaf imperfectly torn from a common-place book, in which the first copy of one of Junius's Letters is pretended to have been written) is a clumsy forgery, which has not left space enough, be-

tween the existing words of the fragment, for half the number of words which are necessary to make sense of the passage. These gentlemen are, therefore, completely *hors de combat*.

Mr. Glover alone remains ; and it must be acknowledged that the freedom, the purity, and energy of his style, the ardour with which he engaged in politics, the intimacy he appears to have enjoyed with so many public characters, and the abhorrence (I mean the *political* abhorrence) and the jealousy he entertained of every one of them, with the remarkable exception of Mr. Grenville, all conspire to give to his pretensions a very strong degree of *internal* probability ; of probability derived from a consideration of the writings themselves. But when we advance to the *external* proof, to his motions about Town, his residence, his facilities of communication with the press, his hand-writing, and other the like circumstances, we find not a tittle of information. All that it is possible to collect from the most diligent perusal of his *Memoirs*, and the Inquiry founded upon them, is, that Mr. Glover *may* have been the author of Junius's Letters :—(and when the cordial and animated eulogium of Mr. Glover upon Col. Townshend is compared with the very contemptuous manner in which Junius speaks of the

same young nobleman, perhaps even so much can scarcely be allowed):—but there is not a particle of proof to shew that he *was so*.

Now this is what the author of the present Attempt claims to have done; and if the late editor has correctly indicated those communications of Junius to the Public Advertiser, which that writer chose to transmit under other signatures, I see not how this conclusion can be avoided. For the case stands thus: On the 21st of September, 1769, General Gansel was arrested for debt: he persuaded the bailiff to accompany him to the Horse Guards, where, he said, he should find a friend who would bail him. Arrived at the place, he sees a serjeant, to whom he complains that he had been insulted by the bailiff, and desires him to bring a file of musqueteers and take the man into custody: himself, in the mean time, making his escape. This is the statement given in Mr. Woodfall's note (ii. 37.) which appears to be impartial and authentic. Junius adds, how truly I know not, that a young lieutenant (Dodd) not on duty, took part in the affair, and applied to the officer on duty (Lieutenant Garth) to turn out the guard for the purpose of relieving the General; that Garth declined interfering, but stood at a distance, and suffered Dodd to do so. However

this be, the Adjutant-General, hearing of the affair, committed the serjeant and his men close prisoners to the Savoy, and sent word to the sheriffs of his having so done, that they might be given up to the civil authority ; and, at the end of a week, the General surrendered himself, and was committed to the King's Bench Prison.

Upon these facts, Junius, on the 17th of the following month, raised a most vehement attack against the ministry. Their having neglected to bring the officers to a court-martial was the main ground of accusation. “ They have views [against the liberties of their country] which can only be answered by securing the attachment of the Guards. They did not venture to bring even the private soldiers to a court-martial, because they knew their evidence would be fatal to some persons, whom they [the ministers] were determined to protect. Otherwise, Junius doubts not, the *lives* of the unhappy, friendless soldiers would long since have been sacrificed, without scruple, to the security of their guilty officers. Did he not know that his countrymen had in their hearts a spirit of resistance ; that they valued life only by its independence, he should advise them to forget that they were Englishmen, and make some early agreement with the minister, that, since he robbed them

of their political rights, he would at least leave them the humble, obedient security of citizens, and condescend to protect them in their submission."

Now the question is, did the case before him warrant Junius in this acrimony of invective? Without attempting, or wishing, to justify the General, the lieutenants, the serjeant, or his men, can any one believe that the government, in contenting itself with a slight imprisonment and a reprimand, in abstaining to proceed with the utmost severity against these persons, were actuated by any formal design against the liberties of the subject? It was at least fitting that these parties should not be punished twice for their offence. The sentence of a court-martial would be no bar to an action at law for the civil injury, or to an indictment for the misdemeanour: it was at least fair, therefore, to wait and see if such proceeding would be instituted. Or would Junius really have had the cabinet direct the Attorney-General to file an information *ex officio* against the young gentlemen, for what most people, of ordinary good-nature, will consider as a juvenile indiscretion committed in the heat of the moment; repaired, as far as reparation was possible, immediately after its commission, and productive of no real injury to the creditors

of the General, or the bailiff employed in the arrest? Certain it is, that the public in general saw the affair in the same light in which, I own, I view it. Goaded, as they were, almost to madness, by the envenomed effusions of a licentious press, they thought that Junius had, in this instance, gone too far. Junius himself thought so. He felt that to come forward any more on so trifling an occasion in the person of Junius, would be a degradation to that signature, which he had raised, and which he wished to keep at such an height of importance. To Mr. Woodfall, in a private letter (Nov. 8), he attributes his forbearance in not pushing the subject to compassion—to “the fear of ruining that poor devil Gansel and those other blockheads.” But that policy, and not humanity, was the motive which restrained him from writing any more on this head in the character of Junius, is *certain* from the fact that he pushed it as far as it would go, under *other* signatures. Under that of Moderatus (Nov. 14), he enforces all the arguments of Junius, and answers the objections which had been raised against him. He repeats the statement of the facts: “I have found every circumstance stated by Junius to be literally true. General Gansel persuaded the bailiffs to conduct him to the parade, and cer-

tainly solicited a corporal and other soldiers to assist him in making his escape. Captain Dodd did certainly apply to Captain Garth for the assistance of his guard. Captain Garth declined appearing himself, but stood aloof while the other took upon him to order out the King's guard, and by main force rescued the General. It is also strictly true, that the General was escorted by a file of musqueteers, to a place of security. These are facts which no gentleman in the Guards will deny. If all or any of them are false, why are they not contradicted by the parties themselves? However secure against military censure, they have yet a character to lose ; and surely, if they are innocent, it is not beneath them to pay some attention to the opinion of the public." He would have them punished twice over. " They have committed two offences, both very common, and violated two laws. The rescue is one offence ; the flagrant breach of discipline, another ; and hitherto it does not appear that they have been punished, or even censured, for either." Their appeal to the compassion of the public, Moderatus answers by saying, this idea, as well as the insinuation, that depriving the parties of their commissions, would be an injury to their creditors, can only refer to General Gansel.

The other officers are in no distress, therefore have no claim to compassion; nor does it appear that their creditors, if they have any, are more likely to be satisfied by their continuing in the Guards. But this sort of plea will not hold in any shape. Compassion to an offender, who has grossly violated the laws, is, in effect, a cruelty to the peaceable subject who has observed them. "He would have the matter investigated in Parliament." The precedent, with respect to the Guards, is of a most important nature, and alarming enough (considering the consequences with which it may be attended), to deserve a parliamentary enquiry. When the Guards are daring enough, not only to violate their own discipline, but publicly, and with the most atrocious violence, to stop the execution of the laws; and when such extraordinary offences pass with impunity, believe me, Sir, the precedent strikes deep." Such are the tender mercies of Junius! Such was the man who would not "push the subject of his letter, for fear of ruining that poor devil Gansel, and those other blockheads." He drops the affair in one character, only to take it up in another. He affects to spare them, while he is doing them all the mischief in his power.

For that Moderatus was no other than Junius

himself, is undeniable. When the letters of Junius were, under his own inspection, collected into volumes, this letter was adopted as one of the letters of Philo-Junius, his own accredited signature for his subordinate compositions. Indeed, who but Junius himself would have entered into his concerns, have espoused his cause, vindicated his character, and enforced his arguments on such an occasion, with an interest so truly paternal?

The same observation applies to the letters of X X, which appeared in the same paper, and on the same subject, on the 20th and 25th of the same month. Here we have the same deep concern for the reputation of Junius, the same violence against the ministry, the same persecution of the offending officers, with new discoveries of the secret motives which induced the government to screen them: *one*, it seems, *was an equerry to the Duke of Cumberland; the other a friend of Mr. Luttrell* [the well-known member for Middlesex], *and the son of the oldest and most intimate crony of his father, Lord Irnham*: both, therefore, on account of these connections, according to the logic of the school of Junius, so connected with the ministry as to be by them sheltered from justice. Besides all this, X X inveighs with virulence against

Lord Barrington, the perpetual object of Junius's execration : and, as if to identify himself with Junius beyond the possibility of cavil, recommends and highly extols the letter of Moderatus, incontestibly written by Junius, and what is very remarkable, *announces a new and tremendous attack upon the ministry, which appeared four days after in the shape of a letter from Junius to the Duke of Grafton, on Col. Burgoyne's sale of a patent place to a Mr. Hine.* Can we wonder that the advocate of the officers should tax Junius with "venting his illiberal resentment under the borrowed signature of X X ;" with "keeping the field under another person, after he has been routed in his own?" Not a doubt can, I am persuaded, exist with any one who attentively reads the whole of the correspondence, that the letters of Junius, Philo-Junius, Moderatus, and X X, were all written by one and the same person, as the late editor very properly considers them to have been. It is material, then, to discover, if we can, who X X was ; because, if we can do this, it is evident we shall not be far from the detection of Junius himself.

Now, what are the facts which we know respecting X X? In the first place, he was a friend of Mr. Wilkes. On the 17th of Nov. 1769, he

sent a letter to the Public Advertiser, enclosing a private letter from Mr. Geo. Onslow to Mr. Wilkes (date 21st Nov. 1763) ; of which that anonymous writer had by some means obtained a copy, which he most unwarrantably transmitted for publication. With the merits or demerits of Mr. O. I have nothing to do : but when one friend has written in confidence of friendship to another (and Onslow and Wilkes were friends at the time he wrote the letter in question) ; if the person addressed permits a third person to take a copy of the letter, he is guilty of an act of most culpable indiscretion, to call it by the lightest name. But there is *only one name* for the conduct of him who transmits such letter to the press, for the purpose of holding up its writer to public odium. I do not scruple to affirm, that the man who can commit this crime, is withheld from the commission of all others by no principle of morality or honour. Such however is the fact. X X communicated Mr. O.'s letter to Mr. Woodfall ; and Mr. Woodfall the son asserts that X X was Junius ; and the perusal of the letters of X X will convince the reader that Mr. Woodfall is right. This part of the argument I conceive to be so self-evident to any one who reads the letter, that I think it quite superfluous to labour it any further. So much for the

vaunted honour and lofty spirit of Junius. Now then let us see who he was.

On the 14th of the preceding July, appeared in the same paper a letter signed, “Another Freeholder of Surrey,” and charging Mr. Onslow with having sold a place under government to a Mr. Burns. The Freeholder was Mr. Horne; and Mr. Horne had been, some days previous to that date, “abused for the publication of a letter (date 21st Sept. 1765) from Mr. Onslow to Mr. Wilkes” (Woodfall’s Junius, iii. 230), which, by letter of that date, was transmitted to the P. A. for publication. The letter so transmitting, to Mr. Woodfall the father,—Mr. Onslow’s letter to Wilkes,—is asserted by Mr. Woodfall the son (in the page just referred to) to have been written by Mr. Horne. Here then we have Mr. Horne, in July, 1769, transmitting anonymously to Mr. Woodfall, for the purpose of annoying Mr. Onslow, a letter from the said Onslow to Mr. Wilkes, and an anonymous writer, X X, a few months later, transmitting to the same printer, for the same purpose of annoying the same person, another letter, also written by him to the same then confidential friend. “Would you desire better comparisons?” Who can doubt that Horne was X X? and who that reads the letters of X X can doubt that the writer of those letters was also the writer of those under

the signature of Junius? And observe how much the fact of these two letters narrows the sphere of suspicion. Most of those persons who have been named as the authors of Junius were, I am persuaded, much too honourable for such a business as publishing a gentleman's private correspondence for the purpose of annoying him: Most of them, again, had never that intimacy with Wilkes which should procure them access to his *escritoire*. But Mr. Horne—I will only say, that Mr. Horne is known to have been capable of the one and the other. Add to these pregnant circumstances, the presumptive evidence which the author of the *Attempt* conceives himself to have accumulated upon this subject, and then let the *candid* reader blame him, if he can, for still persisting in the opinion with which he concluded his *Attempt*; for still believing that he has *proved his point*.

The time of Junius's appearance as an author, April, 1767, synchronizes exactly with the commencement of Mr. Horne's political existence. "The life of Mr. Horne," says Wilkes, or one of his adherents, in a letter written December 31st, 1770 (*i. e.* after their violent rupture), "began, as I understand, about *four years ago*, when he was produced to the world as the friend of Mr. Wilkes, and as such received a degree of countenance and favour, which his merit

or abilities would never have entitled him to.”* The interval between April 1767, and December 1770, could not be more correctly described than as *about four years ago*. Is not the ardour of Junius, too, more like the character of a man of Horne’s time of life,—*calidus juventa*,—than that of an hoary veteran like Glover, who, in 1767, must have said of himself,—

———— “ Non laudis amor, non gloria cessit
Pulsa metu ; sed enim gelidus tardante senectâ
Sanguis hebet, frigentque effœtæ in corpore vires.”

I will add one or two more corroborating circumstances.

Besides the facilities for accurate and early information of what passed in the interior of the royal household, which Mr. Horne possessed, from the vicinity of Brentford to Kew, on which I have already dwelt, he had others, of which I was not then apprised. His sister was married to Dr. Demaimbray, a native of Switzerland,† “who taught the King spelling and the mathematics,” says Wilkes contemptuously. He was, I believe, his Majesty’s instructor in astronomy, and keeper of the Royal Observatory at Kew. It was, I presume, from this interest that Mr.

* The Controversial Letters of John Wilkes, Esq. and the Rev. John Horne. London, 1771, 12mo. p. 230.

† Controversial Letters, &c. p. 308.

Horne, upon his return to England towards the end of 1764, “received a promise,”—they are his own words,*—“that he should speedily be appointed chaplain to his Majesty, through the nominal application of the Duke of ———, with a prospect of such other particular preferment as was sufficient to satisfy his wishes ;” and from this gentleman, who, by virtue of his office, enjoyed such frequent opportunities of conversing with his Majesty, Mr. Horne might derive much of the information of which Junius makes such a display in his correspondence both private and public.

I find a most remarkable affinity between the terms in which Junius speaks of the services Mr. Horne had rendered Wilkes, and those in which Mr. Horne, in his own person, speaks of those services.

JUNIUS.

“He recommended him to the Livery of London for their representative ; to the Ward of Farringdon for their alderman ; to the County of Middlesex for their knight.”

HORNE.

“I leave you the legal representative of Middlesex, an alderman of London, and about £. 30,000 richer than when first I knew you ; and I pretend to have been a little instrumental in all these changes of your situation.”—*Controversial Letters*, p. 33.

* *Controversial Letters*, p. 30.

It is one advantage which the hypothesis I have endeavoured to establish possesses over every other, that it affords a complete solution of the difficulty, so insurmountable upon any other supposition, that this celebrated author has never since been tempted to disclose himself. It is true, that in the light in which I regard Junius, no genuine honour could accrue to any one from being known as the writer : but since

————— “ Tanto major famæ sitis est, quam
Virtutis,” —————

it is certainly extraordinary that, when all dread of a prosecution or a challenge was removed (and time has long ago removed them), the writer never came forward and established his claim. Mr. Horne, and Mr. Horne alone, if he were the man, could never do this without a complete forfeiture of character ; and therefore this fact must be taken as another presumption in favour of my conjecture.

Yet even Mr. Horne at times appears to have been on the verge of discovery, to have laboured with the mighty secret, and to have been deterred from disclosure only by some most powerful motive, such as I have imagined for him. When Mr. Boyd was first announced to the

world as Junius, Mr. T. B. a gentleman well known, and an intimate friend of Mr. Horne, carried to him one day the publication in which that fact was stated ; and after the customary salutations, said, “ Mr. Horne, I have got something in my pocket which will entertain you.” “ What is it ? ” said Horne. “ Why, a book which professes to prove who Junius was.” — “ Well,” said Horne, “ who do they say he was ? ” — “ Boyd,” replied Mr. B. “ Pooh,” said Horne, with a contemptuous smile, “ Junius is still living ;—but,” added he, after a moment’s pause, and, as it were upon reflection, “ I am not going to tell you who he is.” This I had, through two gentlemen of undoubted credit, from Mr. B. himself, who is yet alive. The following was told me by the gentleman himself who was a party in the dialogue. He had occasion to visit Mr. H. Tooke at Wimbledon, about six weeks before his decease, upon an affair of business. He found him alone, and in bed. After the affair which had brought him down had been discussed, they discoursed on various subjects, and at length came to Junius, on which Mr. Horne expatiated, particularly on the danger which would even now await the man who should avow himself to be the author : “ No one,” he said,

“ could even now do so with safety ; * not even,” added he, “ if he were so old a man as myself.” I have no doubt that these two occasions were far from being the only ones in which Mr. H. thus trembled on the threshold of avowal : those who were admitted to his familiarity could add, I am persuaded, many anecdotes similar to those which I have related ; for a very general belief prevailed, I find, among

* Junius’s apprehensions of the consequences of a discovery were as acute as those of Mr. Horne. “ As to me,” says he, to Sir William Draper, “ it is by no means necessary that I should be exposed to the resentment of the worst and most powerful men in this country, though I may be indifferent about yours. Though you would fight, there are others who would assassinate.”—“ As for myself, it is no longer a question whether I shall mix with the throng, and take a single share of the danger. Whenever Junius appears, he must encounter a host of enemies.” And still more strongly in a private letter to Mr. Woodfall :—“ I am sure I should not survive a discovery three days ; or, if I did, they would attaint me by bill.”

But in 1769 and 1771, these apprehensions were, I believe, well founded ; in 1812 they are ridiculous. I can but consider them either as a tacit excuse for quitting the world with so important a secret, or as an expression of that pardonable vanity which magnifies to ourselves the consequence of our actions ; which made Dennis set so high a value on his satires against Louis XIV. as to convert a merchantman, beating off the Dorsetshire coast, into a ship of war, dispatched to deliver him into the vengeance of the incensed monarch.

such persons, that Mr. Horne was really the man. When Mr. W. after the conversation I have just mentioned, returned below stairs to the ladies, Mr. H.'s daughters, and Mr. Henry Clifford, the well-known barrister, who was sitting with them, they asked him how he found Mr. Horne? Mr. W. expressed his surprise at his spirits and vivacity, and strength of mind, under so long and hopeless a confinement, and related the conversation they had held on the subject of Junius. "Well, but," said C. "you know, I suppose, who Junius was."—"No, indeed," replied W. "I do not."—"Why, rejoined the other, "we all here say that Mr. Horne was the author of Junius's Letters."* In

* Mr. Stephens writes, that he was present when one of the company asked Horne Tooke if he knew the author of Junius. "On the question being put, he immediately crossed his knife and fork on his plate, and assuming a stern look, replied, "I do." *His manner, tone, and attitude, were all too formidable to admit of any further interrogatories.*" Life of H. Tooke, by Stephens, ii. 358.

Is there not something like this in Milton, where Ithuriel touches Satan with his spear:

"Up he starts
Discover'd and surpriz'd. As when a spark
Lights on a heap of nitrous powder."—

"The smutty grain
With sudden blaze diffus'd inflames the air:
So started up in his own shape the Fiend."

fact, I now learn, that as long ago as the year 1789, the late Mr. Thicknesse published a pamphlet, entitled *Junius Detected*, the object of which was to fix it on Mr. Horne. I have never been able to see this work, which was sold, with some mystery, in a sealed envelope, and at the unusual price of a guinea ; but I have recovered the two following paragraphs about it from an old newspaper, which I shall leave without further comment to the consideration of the reader :—

“ *To the Editor of the Gazetteer.* :

“ SIR,

“ There has been no system, however absurd, or opinion, however ridiculous, but has found its support in the minds of men prompted by vanity, or stimulated by interest.

Among absurdities at present, the idea of John Horne being the author of the Letters of Junius, is not perhaps the least ; as well might his Grace of Grafton put in *his* plea for popularity, and, as he likewise was satirised, throw off his load of obloquy by an insinuation that he himself was the author of that censure.

“ Any man capable of distinguishing dulness from spirit, or insipidity from elegance, would discover it was impossible John Horne could be Junius ; for although, doubtless, most men of

great abilities are capable of changing their style, yet the parson has universally preserved the same diction in all his writings ; the same tame vulgarity, which is as distant from the nervous eloquence of Johnson, or the more dignified periods of Bolingbroke, as the feeble flight of a pigeon is excelled by the energetic wing of an eagle.

“ Persecution is certainly a road to popularity, and his speed is most accelerated who meets with a persecutor philosophical and eloquent ; but no man wishes to be known for the purpose of being despised. Junius’s letters to the priest convey his character to the public, in all the pomp of contemptuous detestation ; and no man of honour ever rose from their perusal, but with a *decided* opinion of Mr. H—, his “*Monitor*,” and his *Poetry*.

“ If it did not look like experiment, I would venture to insinuate to Mr. Tooke, that this report concerning Junius came from himself, through the medium of Philip Thicknesse : but believe me, my very dear Sir, you will be unsuccessful. Those letters you wish to depreciate by calling yours, are, at the distance of nineteen years, to a sensible mind, pregnant with pleasure, and made sacred by philosophy, and will continue to be so, perhaps, when even the *Diver-*

sions of *Purley* are forgotten, and the "Commentaries of the Jesuits" held no longer in remembrance."

"A BRITON OF THE SOUTH"

"December 3, 1789."

Does not this letter remind the reader of the following quotation from Thomson?

"The lapwing flutters (pious fraud!) to draw
The hot-pursuing spaniel far away."

If such was the intention of the letter, it fully answered its purpose, for the following appeared in the paper of the 11th of December:—

"In justice to Mr. Horne Tooke, Mr. Thicknesse declares that he never spoke, to the best of his knowledge, but twice in his life, to that gentleman; that it is so many years since, that he doubts whether he should even know his person were they to meet. So that what he has published relative to *Junius Detected*, proceeded wholly from his own folly; which however is, even by the most candid Reviewers, left in a doubtful state; nor did Mr. Thicknesse venture to print his ideas from his own weak judgment, but from the opinion of able heads."

Before I conclude, I would say one word on

the most delicate of subjects,—myself. I have given great offence, I find, to some warm admirers of Junius, and Mr. Horne, by the freedom of my strictures on those characters. This can excite no surprise, however I may regret it. I would willingly offend no one, but I certainly did not write with the view of pleasing those gentlemen. The objects of our attachment are different—

“ ————— Numina vicinorum

Odit uterque” —————

It is not likely that our sentiments should be congenial.

On a cool and careful review of my Attempt, I find nothing to retract, and there is only one word I would wish to expunge. It is in the 12th line of the 17th page. Yet after revolving it anxiously in my mind, I am unable to substitute any other in its room ; and I have the consolation to have found another writer experiencing the like embarrassment :—a Reviewer, and therefore, of course, correct,—the Edinburgh Reviewer, and therefore, of course, the *acmé* of perfection. Speaking of the celebrated French writer, Diderot, he says: “ We not only feel neither respect nor affection for him, but can seldom read any of his lighter pieces without disgust. There is a tone of blackguardism (we

really can find no other word) both in his indecency and his profanity, which," &c. July, 1813, p. 283. I may take it for granted, then, that our language supplies no other word to express my meaning; and I have no further apologies to make. If I have at all succeeded in degrading Junius from the "bad eminence" on which he has been so long enthroned, in exposing the hypocrisy, perfidiousness, and falsehood of pretended patriots,—if I have been able to do this,—

"Detrahere et pellem, nitidus qua quisque per ora
Cederet, introrsum turpis," ———

I have *that* to support me, which will ward off blows launched from an arm of tenfold strength to any which has been lifted against me. "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear to myself," in comparison with the maintenance of social order, legitimate authority, and constitutional liberty.

"Welcome for thee, fair Virtue! all the past;
For thee, fair Virtue! welcome *ev'n the last*."

FINIS.

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Lately published,
AN ATTEMPT
TO
Ascertain the Author of the Letters
Published under the Signature of
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BY THE REV. J. B. BLAKEWAY, M.A. F.S.A.

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